



TEXAS JUVENILE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT

Executive Director's Report

OCTOBER 2014

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10th Annual Strengthening Youth & Families Conference

November 5-7, 2014

San Marcos Embassy Suites Conference Center

The 10th Annual Strengthening Youth & Families Conference, an annual event sponsored by a TJJD and a collaboration of youth-serving partners, kicks-off on Wednesday, November 5th in San Marcos. The conference offers workshops related to the promotion of positive youth development and the prevention, intervention, and treatment of high-risk behaviors in youth. Workshops will be geared to a multi-disciplinary audience of youth-serving professionals, volunteers, and family members. Each workshop will be approved for professional continuing education units for social workers, mental health providers, juvenile justice providers, and law enforcement – with a maximum of 19 hours of training credit. Event participants include probation and parole officers, child protective workers, correctional officers and caseworkers, juvenile justice professionals, teachers, mental health providers, substance abuse treatment providers, volunteers working with youth and families, and many other community stakeholders.

The conference is planned, underwritten, and implemented by several state agencies and organizations including: the Texas Juvenile Justice Department, the Texas School Safety Center at Texas State University, the Department of State Health Services (mental health, substance abuse, and adolescent health), the Department of Family and Protective Services (prevention and early intervention and child protective services), the State Volunteer Resource Council for Texas Youth, AgriLife Extension Services, the Texas A & M Public Policy Research Institute, Texas Juvenile Justice Providers Association, Prairie View A & M Juvenile Crime Prevention Center, and the Health and Human Services Commission.

Registration Rates:

Early registration is only \$175 during September. The regular registration rate of \$225.00 will be available October 1-20. Only the onsite registration rate of \$250 is available after October 20th. A discounted rate of \$100 is available for students (a current student ID will be required at check-in). Register for the conference at <http://www.planetReg.com/SYFC2014>. ■



Giddings Extravaganza

Giddings staff hosted a Labor Day Extravaganza for youth who had to meet strict behavioral and program criteria to participate. Youth enjoyed chilly cheese hotdogs, soda, shaved ice snow cones, cotton candy, nachos and a giant water slide. ■

Teacher Appreciation at Gainesville

Gainesville football players gave their jerseys to their favorite teachers to wear on campus Friday, Sept. 26. ■



Evins Youth & Staff Support Boys & Girls Club

The Evins Regional Juvenile Center staff and youth presented school supplies to the Boys & Girls Club of Alamo as part of a back to school drive held at Evins. Staff, volunteers and family participated in the collection and one Evins youth was selected to help deliver the supplies to the Club. The youth, Joe who has been with TJJD for 16 months, said, “It is good to see staff participating in this event and I am very grateful to have been chosen.”

Assistant Executive Director of the Boys and Girls Club, Vivian Garcia, said, “Every bit helps our youth as most come from low income households and are very much in need.” The timing of the delivery of the school supplies couldn’t come at a better time since the Club was hosting a back to school/health fair the next day. ■





Shown, from left, are Lynette Acuna, facility administrator; Regina Perez, compliance/PREA coordinator; Kelly Arnecke, assistant chief juvenile probation officer; District Judge Skipper Koetter; Pama Hencerling, chief juvenile probation officer; District Judge Stephen Williams, juvenile board chairman; District Judge Robert Cheshire; County Court-at-Law Judge Travis Ernst and Debra Tomas, intake officer.

Victoria County Juvenile Facility First To Be Certified PREA Compliant

The Victoria Regional Juvenile Justice Facility, operated by the Victoria County Juvenile Probation Department, has become the first county-run juvenile facility in Texas to meet new national Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) standards and become certified as compliant with PREA standards by the Department of Justice (DOJ).

PREA standards, which were finalized by the DOJ in June 2012, establish strict requirements for facilities to ensure safeguards are in place to provide for the sexual safety of those housed in prisons, jails, and juvenile detention and corrections centers. The Victoria facility voluntarily requested the PREA audit in January 2014 in an effort to comply with federal law and to improve and increase awareness of its zero tolerance policy within the facility to youth, staff, volunteers and contractors.

Victoria County Juvenile Probation Chief Pama Hencerling cited the work of her staff, including Assistant Chief Kelly Arnecke, Facility Administrator Lynette Acuna, PREA Coordinator Regina Perez and Intake Officer Debra Tomas as well as numerous other staff that assisted for their thorough and detailed work in preparing the facility for this important audit.

“The Victoria County Juvenile Probation Department began preparing for this audit in January 2013 and our entire staff has worked diligently to ensure our readiness,” Hencerling said. “This certification demonstrates our continued commitment to operating a safe and secure facility for our residents and staff.”

Hencerling said the PREA desk audit began in March 2014 and concluded August 21, 2014. Federal auditors were at the facility for two days. For juvenile facilities, there are approximately 182 standards that must be met to be considered “PREA compliant.”

Texas Juvenile Justice Department Executive Director David Reilly lauded the Victoria County Juvenile Probation Department and the Juvenile Board for being the first Texas County to voluntarily undergo this important examination.

“The sexual safety of youth in our juvenile facilities is an important issue both here in Texas and across the nation,” Reilly said. “I appreciate the leadership of Chief Hencerling and her juvenile board and hope others will follow their example. It’s great to see Victoria County be a leader in this important field.” ■

Youth At Schaeffer House Meet Public Servants

Earlier this summer, staff and youth participated in the annual “Nights Out” event conducted by the El Paso Sheriff’s Department. The youth had an opportunity to meet various law enforcement agencies and fire departments. This annual event is designed to give the youth an opportunity to interact with the different agencies, helping break down barriers and myths that the juveniles may have based on passed encounters with law enforcement. ■

Evins Staff Honors OIG and Youth Rights

In September, Evins Regional Juvenile staff hosted a luncheon for local employees of the Office of Inspector General (OIG) and Youth Right Specialists (YRS). Evins Superintendent Donald Brooks, shared with those gathered the importance of the OIG and YRS offices and their difficult work to ensure that we are all safe and in compliance at the facility. He presented each of them with a certificate of appreciation. ■



Pictured left to right back row: From central office Peter Heller use of Force Monitor, from Evins Ruben Ramirez, Criminal Investigator, Donald Brooks, Superintendent, from Central Office Lesly Jacobs, Deputy Director of Administrative Investigation Division, and from Evins Francisco Elizondo, Criminal Investigator. Front left to right from Evins: Javier Medina, Investigator/Canine Handler, Canine-Tex, Cristina Gonzalez, Administrative Investigator and Rosy Moreno, Youth Right Specialist.

Gainesville Honors Volunteers

The Gainesville State School and the Student Support Council hosted a celebration to honor volunteers and donors. The theme was “Volunteers: Making Waves.” Sea shells, colorful fish, a wading pool, fishnets, parrots, and starfish decorated the room at the Whaley United Methodist Church in their Family Life Center. The celebration included an educational workshop, keynote speaker John Mobley, delicious food catered by April Ballou, an amazing band Airborn, awards, gifts, and entertainment by youth.

Superintendent Paul Bartush expressed his appreciation to the volunteers for their hard work and continuing support for the youth. Tammy Holland, Manager of Community Relations, Family Services, and Chaplaincy, was on hand to present the awards.

Jerome Voth was honored as Volunteer of the Year. Allen Bradley was awarded the Volunteer Achievement Award. Rossi Roesner was named Chaplaincy Volunteer of the year. Deborah, Amber, and Jinny Bucklew were chosen as the Volunteer Family of the year, and Counter Culture was chosen as the Group of the Year. Nancy Voss was also honored as President of the Student Support Council. ■



Employees Receiving Tenure Awards

TJJD would like to recognize the following employees who have received a tenure award since August 2014. On behalf of the agency, we extend our sincerest gratitude and appreciation for their dedication and service to the State of Texas.

September 2014

FIVE YEARS OF SERVICE

NAME	LOCATION/CENTRAL OFFICE DIVISION
Ameli Pena	<i>Austin (Monitoring & Inspections)</i>
Roslyn R. Eugster	<i>Gainesville</i>
Rainer F. Schwab	<i>Giddings</i>

TEN YEARS OF SERVICE

Cindy E. Smith	<i>McLennan CSJCF</i>
Donald K. Mittelhauser	<i>OIG Field</i>
Jack T. Williams Jr.	<i>Gainesville</i>
Sarada D. Pokuri	<i>Ron Jackson</i>

FIFTEEN YEARS OF SERVICE

Adonis R. McCarty	<i>Ron Jackson</i>
Alanna M. Bennett	<i>McLennan CSJCF</i>
Ann L. Wilde	<i>McLennan CSJCF</i>
Candelario Saenz Jr.	<i>Evins</i>
Connie Naumann	<i>Giddings</i>
David B. Ator	<i>Ron Jackson</i>
Don J. Sharon	<i>McLennan CSJCF</i>
Jessie L. Vasquez-Hogues Jr.	<i>Ron Jackson</i>
Mari D. Kubitza	<i>McLennan CSJCF</i>
Phillip Little	<i>Tyler DO</i>

TWENTY YEARS OF SERVICE

Linda C. Bustinza	<i>McLennan RTC</i>
Sondra K. Wilson	<i>Giddings</i>

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OF SERVICE

Bill R. Laux	<i>Gainesville</i>
Manuel D. Carrera	<i>Dallas DO</i>

THIRTY YEARS OF SERVICE

Mark S. Shaw	<i>Midland DO</i>
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October 2014

FIVE YEARS OF SERVICE

NAME	LOCATION/CENTRAL OFFICE DIVISION
David E. Wallis	<i>Gainesville</i>
Dylan W. Brock	<i>Giddings</i>
Janet L. Ferretti	<i>McLennan CSJCF</i>
Jenny L. Sohasky	<i>McLennan CSJCF</i>
Kristy L. Reynolds	<i>Gainesville</i>
Monica V. Trevino	<i>Evins</i>
Oscar A. Villarreal Jr.	<i>York HWH</i>
Varnard A. Oliver	<i>Gainesville</i>

TEN YEARS OF SERVICE

Agustin Artiaga	<i>Evins</i>
Albert J. Washington	<i>McLennan CSJCF</i>
Dale R. Buro	<i>Giddings</i>
David B. Herndon	<i>Gainesville</i>
Rolando Barrios	<i>Evins</i>
Toni Charles	<i>Evins</i>

FIFTEEN YEARS OF SERVICE

Brad J. Stafford	<i>Austin (Information and Technology)</i>
Rickey N. Parvin	<i>Ron Jackson</i>
Ta'ah D. Loven	<i>Ron Jackson</i>

TWENTY YEARS OF SERVICE

Christi T. Fleetwood	<i>McLennan RTC</i>
Dorothy Lewis	<i>Brownwood HWH</i>
Laverne Harrison	<i>Gainesville</i>
Phillip Jones	<i>Gainesville</i>
Rebecca J. Hart	<i>Austin (Human Resources)</i>

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OF SERVICE

Elbert R. Sparkman	<i>Gainesville</i>
Melissa R. Headrick	<i>Austin (State Programs & Facilities)</i>